

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the detailed Office Action dated August 4, 2004. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-21 were pending in the application.

Claims 18-21 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 5-7 and 9-17 are currently being amended.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-17 are now pending in this application.

Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 12C and 13. This sheet, which includes Figs. 12A-12C and 13, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 12A-12C and 13. In Fig. 13, previously omitted tabs 78 have been added. In the previous version of the drawing, reference numeral 78 pointed to where one of the tabs should have been, but the tab itself was omitted. In Fig. 12C, the tab openings 46 have been amended slightly to better show that they are open on the bottom and are capable of receiving the tabs 78. Applicants submit that no new matter being added by these amendments. (See, paragraph [0065] of the patent application).

Restriction Requirement

On page 2 of the Office Action, the pending claims were restricted into the following groups:

GROUP I: Claims 1-9, drawn to a sprinkler system, classified in class 169, subclass 37.

GROUP II: Claims 10-14, drawn to a sprinkler housing, classified in class 137, subclass 377.

GROUP III: Claims 15-17, drawn to a combination of a sprinkler housing and device/tool, classified in class 169, subclass 91.

GROUP IV: Claims 18-21, drawn to a method of making a sprinkler housing or device/tool, classified in class 264, subclass 239.

Applicants elect the claims of GROUP I, i.e., claims 1-9, with traverse on the grounds that the different groupings of claims would not be unduly burdensome to search because much of the art is likely to overlap between the different groups of claims since all of the groups of claims are related to a sprinkler. Applicants note that claims 10-17 have been amended to be dependent on claim 1 or otherwise include all of the limitations of claim 1. Applicants request that claims 10-17 be rejoined to the application upon allowance of claim 1 in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.141(a).

Applicants respectfully submit that the present Application is in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if the Examiner needs anything or if a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Applicants respectfully put the Patent Office and all others on notice that all arguments, representations, and/or amendments contained herein are only applicable to the present patent application and should not be considered when evaluating any other patent or patent application including any patents or patent applications which claim priority to this patent application and/or any patents or patent applications to which priority is claimed by this patent application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of

papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings:

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Attachment: Replacement Sheet (1 page)